Lililicious~may its fragrance encompass you
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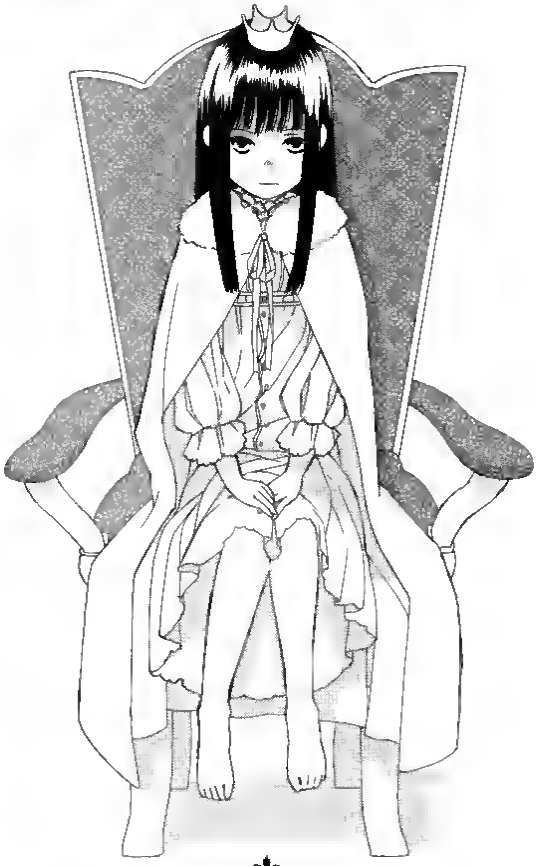
Aurora Theater Troupe
Fourth Production
The Snow Queen
HAS EVERYONE GOT ONE?
OKAY, I'LL ANNOUNCE THE CASTING, THEN.
THE LEAD GIRL, GERDA, WILL BE PLAYED BY...
EHHH
HEY!
I DIDN'T CALL YOUR NAME YET.
BUT I KNEW IT WOULD BE ME.

IT IS, ISN'T IT?
Whisper
HERE SHE GOES ACTING THE LITTLE PRINCESS AGAIN
Whisper
HER LOOKS ARE ABOUT ALL SHE'S GOT GOING FOR HER
Uh-huh
YEAH HER PERSONALITY IS ANOTHER STORY
Oh!
stare
Um,
THE LEAD GIRL, GERDA,
skrrk
clap
clap
clap...
WILL BE PLAYED BY KAWAI MANA.



雪のお姫さま

The Snow Princess

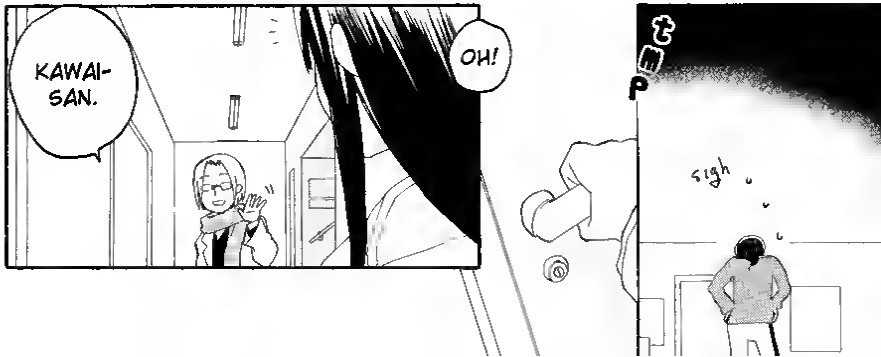
Mizutani Fuca

AND
KAI, THE BOY ...
I'M HIROKI.
I'M THRILLED TO BE WORKING WITH AURORA.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.
clap clap
Looking forward to working with you!
clap clap
click
.....
NEXT UP...
yaaay! You rock!
AND I'LL BE PLAYING THE SNOW QUEEN.
clap clap
I was waiting for that!
WILL BE PLAYED BY OUR GUEST HERE, HIROKI SHOUKO.
DIREC-TOR?

I DON'T LIKE THIS!!
I THOUGHT BRINGING SOMEONE NEW IN MIGHT SHAKE THINGS UP A LITTLE. GET EVERYONE MOTIVATED.
OH,
WHAT'S HIROKI-SAN DOING HERE?
YOU NEVER MENTIONED HER.
I CAN'T ACT ALONGSIDE SOMEONE I DON'T EVEN KNOW!!
YOU KNOW, MANA, ∪
SHE'S PLAYING THE LEAD WITH ME, RIGHT?
I'M SURE THIS WILL BE A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOU.
YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT YOUR FEAR OF STRANGERS.
tug
THAT'S WHY I TRUST YOU WITH THE LEAD ROLES.
I THINK YOU HAVE IT IN YOU TO BE A GREAT ACTRESS, SOMEONE WHO WILL HELP THE TROUPE REACH NEW HEIGHTS.

drop
BUT YOU NEED TO OPEN YOUR HEART TO EVERYONE
IF YOU WANT TO ACT WELL. OKAY?
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ACTING!
ON THE STAGE, WE STAND ALONE.
I JUST HAVE TO GET MY PART PERFECT.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
..
THE ROLE IS WHAT YOU ACT,
BUT THE FEELINGS ARE REAL
DON'T JUST READ YOUR LINES,
SPEAK THEM FROM THE HEART.
RIGHT?

I'M SICK TO THE BACK TEETH OF HEARING THAT.
You've said it a million times
DON'T WORRY,
I'LL BECOME THE PERFECT GERDA. YOU'LL SEE.


OH!
KAWAI-SAN.
tap
sigh

timid...
HELLO.
I WAS JUST LEAVING.
smile
OH ...
HI.
sneak
MANA!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU--
HA!
shove!
t a d a
GO SPEND SOME TIME WITH HIROKI-SAN!!
AND THAT'S AN ORDER!!
THAT WILL PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR ROLES AS KAI AND GERDA!
huh?!
what?!
sorry about this...
...
NO, DON'T BE!

I- I WOULDN'T LET A LITTLE THING LIKE POOR HEALTH AFFECT MY PERFORMANCE.
WOW, YOU TOP ACTRESSES ARE REALLY SOMETHING!
so I'm tickled pink about this!
I've always wanted to talk to you,
tickled pink.
clench
I'VE BEEN TO EVERY AURORA PRODUCTION.
IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL ONE TIME, BUT YOU KEPT GOING
RIGHT UP THROUGH THE END. I WAS MOVED.
OH!
ME, TOO.
AND THE HEAD OF YOUR TROUPE IS GREAT, TOO I LOVE HER ACTING
THAT WAS WHY I JOINED ...
Sigh ...
Kindred spirits.
squee
nod nod ...
I knew it!! Isn't she awesome?
Especially your last show!
That last scene!
Hear, hear!

I THINK IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE TALKED WITH ANYONE LIKE THIS.
Huh?
REALLY?
I HAVE THIS HORRIBLE FEAR OF STRANGERS ...
Hehe
BUT YOU'RE SO COOL ONSTAGE, KAWAI-SAN!
OH!
CALL ME MANA.
NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL.
OKAY, CALL ME SHOUKO, THEN!
'KAY!
Kai and Gerda were very good friends
They hardly left one another's side

"GERDA."
"KAI."
.....
DO YOU SEE NOW, MANA?
THIS IS WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID
THAT THE ROLE IS WHAT YOU ACT
BUT THE FEELINGS ARE REAL.
?
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING DIFFERENT, THOUGH.
...HMMM.
So you don't understand after all...

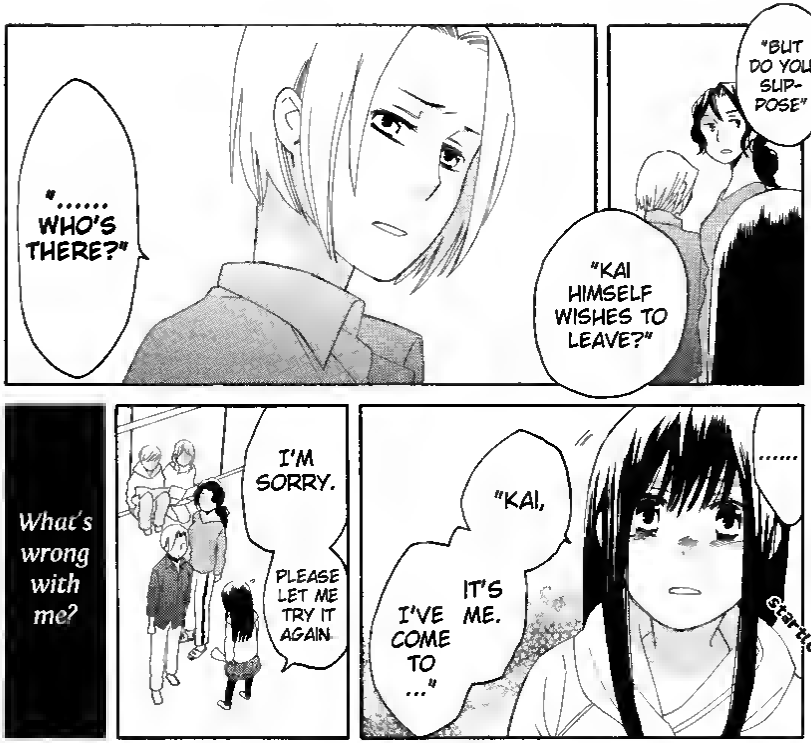
Smile
Hmm
WOULD YOU MIND GETTING SOME?
GLASSES DON'T REALLY FIT KAI'S IMAGE.
Oh
NO.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME.
DO YOU HAVE CONTACTS, HIROKI-SAN?

Um,
IS IT... THAT STORE?
CONTACTS ARE EXPENSIVE.
Most actors aren't exactly rolling in cash
SHE GAVE ME A COUPON ...
Here
IT LOOKS KINDA FANCY ...
It-
SNIFFLE

One day,
shards from a magic mirror
THAT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE RIGHT HERE WITH YOU.

HOW ARE THEY?
OH ...
I CAN
pierced the boy's eyes
and heart,
SEE WELL.
and he was enraptured by the queen
blush

SHE WAS... AWFULLY PRETTY, WASN'T SHE...?
.....
Th-
THEY WERE KIND OF PRICEY, HUH?
I NEED TO STOP BY THE GLASSES STORE,
SO YOU GO WITHOUT ME, OKAY?
Sorry
OH,
WANT TO GET A BITE TO EAT ON--
MOR-NING.
Lean
clack ...
OH!
HI, MANA!
"I MUST COMMEND YOU
ON REACHING MY CASTLE, LITTLE GIRL."
Huh?
Yes, ma'am!
EVERY-ONE HERE? GOOD, LET'S GET STAR-TED!


"BUT DO YOU SUPPOSE"
"KAI HIMSELF WISHES TO LEAVE?"
"..... WHO'S THERE?"
What's wrong with me?
I'M SORRY.
PLEASE LET ME TRY IT AGAIN.
.....
Startle
"KAI, IT'S ME. I'VE COME TO ..."
Why? Why can't I act?
I can't act.
"KAI, IT'S ME."

Something's wrong.

This has never happened to me before.

Why now?

I KNOW.
I CAN'T ACT ANY-MORE.
MANA.
REPLACE ME WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME NOW. I CAN TELL.
YOU SHOULD
THAT'S NOT TRUE. HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE IN YOUR-SELF.
STOP TRYING TO CHEER ME UP.
I NEED TO BE GERDA,
BUT MY FEELINGS ARE GETTING IN THE WAY.
I'M UNFIT TO BE AN ACTRESS ...
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.

MANA,
THE ROLE IS WHAT YOU ACT,
BUT THE FEELINGS ARE REAL.
DON'T JUST READ YOUR LINES, SPEAK THEM
FROM THE HEART.
RUMINATE ON THOSE WORDS
AND WHAT THEY COULD MEAN.
THAT SHOULD HELP YOU
FIGURE OUT THE ROOT OF YOUR PROBLEM.

clack
MANA!
ARE YOU OKAY?
WE WERE WORRIED AFTER YOU RAN OFF LIKE THAT.
...YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT.
OKAY, LET'S DO THIS SCENE AGAIN.
The role is what you act, but the feelings are real.
What I'm really feeling right now...
is sadness.

I'm sad that I've lost Shouko,
just like Gerda is sad about losing Kai.
But why?

Because I love her.
I want to tell you how I really feel, without any pretense or acting.
"KAI,"
"IT'S ME."
I want you to know.
I'VE COME FOR YOU.
I love you, Shouko!

OH...! I REMEMBER EVERYTHING NOW.
...!
GERDA.
The warmth of Gerda's tears
melted the mirror shards inside Kai
WELCOME BACK.
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS!
KAI...!
The pair escaped the queen's wicked clutches
and returned home
together

And they lived ...
clack
JOIN THE TROUPE! PLEASE!
LET ME
SHOUKO ...!
IT WAS TOO HARD TO BE AWAY FROM YOU ...

YOUR PERFORMANCE WAS INSPIRED!!
AND
glomp
Direc-tor!!!
Whaaaaaat?!
Well,
it's usually my little secret
You've captured my heart!!
I never want to leave your side!
BUT WHO KNEW HER PERFORMANCE WOULD BE SO EFFECTIVE?
SHE REALLY WAS AMAZING AS THE SNOW QUEEN.
I NEVER GUESSED YOU WERE THE WOMAN FROM THE GLASSES STORE!!
ARGH!
.....!
Nagezaki

Okay!
Point
AND YOU! IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE TROUPE, JUST OBSERVE US FOR NOW!!
DIRECTOR, STOP BASKING IN HER ADMIRATION!
Point
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A REHEARSAL!!
Grrr
TAKE IT SERIOUSLY!
Oh, dear
We've angered the Princess!
GET TO IT!
rush
U r k !
Grawr!!!
Ack!
rush
NOW, LET'S PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF!
Urk!
Ack!
My Kai is still enraptured with the Snow Queen,

but someday, I'm going to recapture her attention.

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つぼみ
vol.5
黒星紅白
玄鉄絢
吉富昭仁
大朋めがね
きづきあきら
サトウナンキ
鈴木有布子
関谷あさみ
水谷フーカ
宮内由香
きぎたつみ
杉浦次郎
ナヲコ
カサハラテツロー
堀井貴介
ほた。
小梅けいと